Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NEW DE 02757 271445Z

44
ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01 SAB-01 ACDA-10

MC-02 IGA-01 TRSE-00 /079 W
---------- 077204
O 271301Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7173
INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 2757

BANGKOK FOR AMBASSADOR SAXBE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR IN PK US
SUBJECT: INDIAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS CANCELLATION OF CHAVAN'S US VISIT AND MRS. GANDHI'S PARLIAMENT CRITICISM

BEGIN SUMMARY: INDIAN MEDIA FEB 27 GAVE TOP NEWS PLAY TO THE CANCELLATION OF FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN'S VISIT TO THE US AND PRIME MINISTER MRS. GANDHI'S PARLIAMENT STATEMENT CRITICIZING THE WASHINGTON DECISION ON RESUMPTION OF ARMS SUPPLIES TO PAKISTAN. EDITORIAL REACTION WAS GENERALLY UNFAVORABLE. END SUMMARY.

1. COVERAGE OF CHAVAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT CANCELLING HIS FORTHCOMING US VISIT DOMINATED FRONT PAGES OF MOST DELHI ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS APPEARING IN NEW DELHI TODAY. SIX OF THE NINE DAILIES ACCORDED THE STORY THE LEAD NEWS SPOT. A TYPICAL HEADLINE: "CHAVAN CANCELS VISIT TO USA." (TIMES OF INDIA).

2. QUOTING THE BRIEF OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT, "OFFICIAL SOURCES" DEFENDED AMBASSADOR KAUL'S REMARKS WHICH WERE "IN LINE WITH WHAT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NEW DE 02757 271445Z

WE HAVE BEEN TELLING THE US EMBASSY HERE." THEY QUOTED OFFICIAL

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

REACTION TO DR. KISSINGER'S STATEMENT ("THERE ARE MANY THINGS WHICH ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO US ALSO IN REGARD TO THE US GOVERNMENT'S POSITION."), AND THEIR ASSURANCES THAT THE CANCELLATION DID NOT IMPLY DISSOLUTION OF THE INDOA-US JOINT COMMISSION AND THAT THERE WAS NO PLAN FOR THE RECALL OF AMBASSADOR KAUL.

3. NEWS REPORTS COMMENTED ON THE CALLING OFF OF THE CHAVAN VISIT. THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, SAID "THE INDIAN ACTION" IS "A CALCULATED DIPLOMATIC MOVE" WHICH UNDERSCORES INDIA'S PROTEST "BUT LEAVES THE DOOR OPEN TO A FURTHER DIALOGUE." THE TIMES OF INDIA JUDGED THAT INDO-US RELATIONS HAVE TAKEN "A NEW TURN." THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS TERMED IT AS "INDIA'S FIRST MEANINGFUL PROTEST AGAINST THE US DECISION." THE MOTHERLAND VIEWED THE ANNOUNCEMENT AS "THE STRONGEST EXPRESSION SO FAR OF INDIA'S RESENTMENT" OF THE WASHINGTON DECISION. THE PAPER ALSO FRONT-PAGED A THREE-COLUMN CARTOON WHICH SHOWED DR. KISSINGER DRESSED AS A WOMAN, SPITTING WATER FROM A GLASS MARKED "ARMS FOR PAK" ON AMBASSADOR KAUL'S FACE. HOLDING A ROSE IN HIS HANDS, KAUL SAYS: "MY FAIR LADY." CAPTION READS:KISSINGER AND KAUL ARE BELIEVED TO BE GREAT FRIENDS."

4. MOST PAPERS BRIEFLY FRONT-PAGED STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ANDERSON'S STATEMENT THAT THE US EMBASSY HAD BEEN NOTIFIED THAT CHAVAN WOULD POSTPONE HIS VISIT TO THE US AND POINTED OUT THAT ANDERSON USED THE WORD "POSTPONE" RATHER THAN "CANCEL" REPORTS ALSO NOTED HIS DENIAL THAT THE US IS SEEKING TO EQUATE INDIA AND PAKISTAN AS MILITARY POWERS, AND QUOTEDHIM SAYING HE THINKS US-INDIAN RELATIONS ARE GOOD, BUT WOULD IMPROVE IN THE FUTURE.

5. FOUR OUT OF NINE DELHI ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PAPERS LED FRONT PAGES WITH MRS. GANDHI'S PARLIAMENT STATEMENT CRITICIZING THE US DECISION. MOST HEADLINES STRESSED PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS THAT THE ACTION AMOUNTS TO "OPENING OF OLD WOUNDS." REPORTAGE QUOTED THE PREMIER SAYING THAT THE RESUMPTION OF AMERICAN ARMS SUPPLIES TO PINDI "HINDERS THE PROCESS OF HEALING AND NORMALIZATIN OF RELATIONS" BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN AND IT WAS "DISHONEST" AND TOTALLY SPECIOUS" TO ARGUE THAT THE INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION POSES A THREAT TO PINDI.

6. CORRESPONDENTS CHARACTERIZED MRS. GANDHI'S STATEMENT AS GIVING
UNCLASSIFIED

"A NEW DIMENSION TO INDIA'S CONDEMNATION OF THE US DECISION" (INDIAN EXPRESS) AND "REFLECTING THE RISING TIDE OF BITTERNESS IN THE COUNTRY AGAINST THE KISSINGER BETRAYAL" (PATRIOT).

7. SEVERAL PAPERS PROMINENTLY REPORTED AMBASSADOR SAXBE'S BANGKOK POST INTERVIEW. ITEMS HIGHLIGHTED HIS REPORTED STATEMENT THAT "THE LIMIT OF ARMS TO BE SOLD TO PAKISTAN WILL BE ABOUT DOLS100 MILLION" AND THAT HE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHY HIS GOVERNMENT

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

LIFTED THE ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST PAKISTAN BUT ADDED HE WILL SUPPORT
THE DECISION.

8. OTHER ARMS EMBARGO-RELATED STORIES INCLUDED THE NEW YORK TIMES
EDITORIAL COMMENT, SENATOR KENNEDY'S CRITICISM OF THE DECISION,
AND AFGHANISTAN'S EXPRESSION OF "SERIOUS CONCERN". THE HINDUSTAN
TIMES BRIEFLY CARRIED AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S COMMENT IN NEW YORK
THAT THE US DECISION "WAS NOT A DECISION I WOULD HAVE MADE."

9. EDITORIAL REACTION WAS GENERALLY CRITICAL. THE INDIAN EXPRESS
TERMED THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN "BALANCE" AND "PARITY" AS "WORSE
THAN USELESS" AND HELD "WASHINGTON HAS ADDED INSULT TO INJURY."
IT, HOWEVER, CAUTIONED: "INDIAN REACTION MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT
THE TOTALITY OF THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US. THERE HAVE BEEN
HOPEFUL RECENT TRENDS IN A CONSTRUCTIVE DIRECTION. THESE MUST BE
STRENGTHENED." THE PAPER'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT PARASURAM
REPORTED: "MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT DR. KISSINGER HAS PROBABLY
IRRETRIEVABLY LOST HIS CREDIBILITY IN INDIA." IN A LEAD EDITORIAL
ENTITLED, "RETURN OF THE TILT," THE ECONOMIC TIMES JUDGED: "THE
US HAS ONCE AGAIN FAILED TO SHOW THE SAME SORT OF CONSIDERATION
TOWARD INDIAN SENSITIVITY THAT ARISES FROM BITTER EXPERIENCE
OF WARS LAUNCHED BY PAKISTAN WITH US ARMS." CALLING
DR. KISSINGER "PROFESSIONAL GUN-RUNNER AND THE MOST ACCOMPLISHED
LIAR AMONG THE WORLD'S FOREIGN MINISTERS," THE COMMUNIST DAILY
PATRIOT SAW THE AMERICAN DECISION AS "PART OF A DELIBERATE PROGRAM TO
SABOTAGE PEACE IN ASIA." THE STATESMAN FIRST EDITORIAL, "UP THE
GARDEN PATH?" UNDERSCORED "EXTRAVAGANCE" OF CHAVAN-KAUL REACTION
"CONVEYING A SENSE OF HAVING LET DOWN" AND ADDED "IN THIS WAY
THEY ARE SURELY BEING INCREDIBLY NAIVE." IT SUGGESTED EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS MINISTER SHOULD LEARN "TO TAKE DR. KISSINGER'S KIND WORDS
WITH MORE THAN A TOUCH OF SCEPTICISM AND ANALYZE THEM WITH GREATER
CARE."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

10. STATE-RUN TELEVISION CARRIED A COMMENTARY BY LT. GEN HARBAX
SINGH (RETIRED) AND MR. V P DUTT, PRO-VICE-CHANCELLOR OF DELHI
UNIVERSITY AND MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (RAJYA SABHA). SUMMING UP HIS
REACTION TO THE AMERICAN DECISION, HARBAX SINGH DECLARED: "I JUST
CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY EVERYBODY IN INDIA IS SO HET-UP ABOUT THIS
LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. AFTER ALL THIS EMBARGO COULD NOT LAST TILL
PERPETUITY. IT HAD TO COME TO AN END ONE DAY..IT WAS IMPOSED
VOLUNTARILY BY THE UNITED STATES AND THEY HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO LIFT IT
.
SO I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD BURBLE VERY MUCH ABOUT IT, AND AS FOR THE
FLOW OF ARMS, I DON'T THINK THAT WILL MAKE VERY MUCH DIFFERENCE."
MR. DUTT DIFFERED: "AMERICANS HAVE NOT GIVEN UP THE OLD CONCEPT
OF MAINTAINING A BALANCE BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN,
MAINTAINING SOME KIND OF PARITY BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN...
THIS SUPPLY OF ARMS TO PAKISTAN IS MEANT AS A SWORD TO BE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

KEPT HANGING ON INDIA'S HEAD...I DON'T THINK INDO-US
RELATIONS CAN REALLY BE PUT ON AN EVEN KEEL UNLESS THEIR ATTITUDE
TO PAKISTAN AND THE SUB CONTINENT CHANGES."SCHNEIDER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, SPEECHES, MILITARY POLICIES, EMBARGOES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE02757
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750069-0603
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975027/aaaaafwm.tel
Line Count: 172
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by McShalBA>; APPROVED <06 JAN 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS CANCELLATION OF CHAVAN'S US VISIT AND MRS. GANDHI'S PARLIAMENT CRITICISM
TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK, US, (GANDHI, INDIRA), (CHAVAN, Y B)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006